

Looting of the Moberly Farmers'-Merchants' Bank

The Farmers' and Merchants' bank of Moberly was closed by State Director of Finance, J. G. Hughes Thursday of last week upon information that it was in serious financial trouble, and State Bank Examiner, William E. West was placed in charge of the institution.

In a telephone communication to the department West said there was a street rumor in Moberly to the effect that irregularities had been committed involving the credit of the bank to the extent of \$350,000, but of this he was not sure.

The last report of the bank was filed under date of April 3, 1922, with the state banking department. In brief, the report covers these financial items: Capital stock, \$75,000; total resources, \$915,468.21; surplus, \$25,000; undivided profits, \$652.92; individual deposits, \$409,350.12; time deposits, \$83,220.80; savings deposits, \$171,468.95; demand deposits, \$1,600.00.

The report to the State Department was signed by J. W. Bundridge, president; J. W. Sours, assistant cashier, and the three following directors: E. P. Newman, A. Vince and V. E. Bundridge.

Upon reliable authority it is stated that a large number of notes bearing the signatures of Moberly citizens and which gave the appearance of being forged signatures were found by the examiners. The work of going over the bank's affairs was gone into thoroughly and an effort was made to get J. W. and Vern Bundridge to come back to the bank and assist the examiners. They could not be located and the examiners then called in E. P. Newman and A. Vince, both of whom are farmers and are directors in the bank.

While going over the papers suspected of being bad, there was found a note for \$5,400.00, which bore the signature of A. Vince. Mr. Vince at once pronounced it a forgery.

Prosecuting Attorney Redick O'Bryan and M. M. Marshall, justice of the peace, were called out of bed at 1 o'clock in the morning and a warrant was issued for Walter and Vern Bundridge, respectively president and cashier of the bank.

On Thursday the bank examiners announced that they had found a second note which they believed to have been forged and included it in the questionable paper of the closed bank. The note was for \$3,500.00 and against Edward O. Doyle. It was believed that the name was meant for Edwin O. Doyle, a local attorney. In the evening Doyle said that if such a note were on file in the bank it was forged. The bank examiners announced it will be several days before anything definite can be ascertained as to the institution's condition.

President Missing

J. W. Bundridge, missing president of the bank, has not been found, officers reported that his car had been found near Macon, but this report could not be confirmed. Vern E. Bundridge, cashier and brother of the president, who is held under \$7,000 bond on a forgery charge, said he knew nothing of any shortage which might exist in the bank's funds.

V. E. Bundridge, who was arrested, declined to discuss the case, saying that his attorneys had advised him to remain silent.

Many of the bank's depositors are folk of small means, the examiners state, also that many large business houses were patrons of the institution.

Both the Bundridges were highly respected here and were prominent in social and civic life. The general impression here is that the president will return and give himself up after the examiners have made a statement of the bank's financial condition.

Major Lilly and Aubrey Mammatt, attorneys for Vern Bundridge, in an interview with seven newspaper reporters from various papers of the state read a letter from J. W. Bundridge that was written to Vern Bundridge. A part of the letter said:

"I am leaving this note as a confession that I am the one and only one responsible for the shortage at the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank." He said it was due to speculation. Attorney Major Lilly said he mentioned all of the officers and directors of the bank, and held none of them responsible for the trouble that has come up. Lilly said he knew Bundridge's handwriting and that the letter was written in his handwriting and signed by him.

Bundridge's whereabouts are still unknown and no one in Moberly has heard from him, so far as can be learned.

The Kansas City Times, in its issue of Friday, prints the following:

J. W. Bundridge, missing president of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank at Moberly, figured in a \$50,000 heart balm suit filed in the circuit court here January 14, 1920.

The suit was brought against Bundridge by Miss Lucile England, 25 years old, 1043 the Paseo. W. T. Alford, Miss England's attorney, was out of the city Friday, but E. A. Scholer, his law partner, said the suit against Bundridge still was pending. Scholer said that owing to the fact Bundridge had learned about the suit and kept away from Kansas City, authorities had been unable to get service on him.

In her petition, Miss England asserted Bundridge was cashier of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank at Moberly when she first met him in the early part of January, 1918. She said Bundridge proceeded to make love to her; that he persisted in writing letters from the time he met her to February, 1919, and that he frequently visited her in Kansas City.

Bundridge would call her daily on his long distance telephone from the bank at Moberly as well as write her letters of affection and endearment, Miss England said. In all these, she asserted, the bank official professed his love for her.

Miss England cited part of one of her letters she alleged Bundridge wrote to her. It said:

"I am getting homesick. You know it has been a long, long time since you get me one of those nice breakfasts, with lots of kisses before and after."

She asserted she received the letter May 4, 1919.

Miss England also asserted she had established a home and bought furniture for the purpose of marrying Bundridge. After they had become engaged, Miss England avers, Bundridge's ardor cooled somewhat and he refused to have anything further to do with her.

Statement by Whiteside of Chain Co.

J. Walter Bundridge, missing president of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, put more than \$17,000 into the Missouri Chain Co., 2308 Randolph street, St. Louis, since last September.

It has also developed the company was authorized to draw on the Moberly bank to the extent of \$25,000 and that the balance of this money would have been used within the next few weeks to pay for special machinery ordered from an eastern machinery

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CIRCUIT COURT DOINGS

Circuit Court is in session this week here in Keytesville. The docket is fairly well filled this term, but the attorneys are continuing many cases for the reason that it is extremely hard for many to be present owing to the fact that spring work is so far behind owing to the late spring. The attorneys are doing the farmers justice in this, as it would work great hardships at this time to demand their presence in court for the full week.

The Courier will have a complete record of the court doings in next issue.

KEYTESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS PLAY A SUCCESS

Last Saturday evening a large crowd of folks were on hand at the Court house to see the senior class put on the annual class play, "Her Gloves." The youngsters acquitted themselves faultlessly and to the entire satisfaction of the audience.

The work was cleverly put over and the class is to be congratulated upon their success.

WM. H. RICKMAN OF BRUNSWICK PASSED ON

Brunswick lost a well known and highly respected citizen last week in the death of Mr. Wm. H. Rickman, who died at his home just north of that city. He had lived in Brunswick all his life and was 76 years of age. Funeral services were held at 5 o'clock Sunday and interment in the cemetery at Brunswick.

NOTICE OF CLEANUP DAY

Notice is hereby given that Monday and Tuesday, May 22nd and 23rd, will be cleanup day.

Place all your trash in a convenient place and wagons will call for it.

By order of City Council.

A. F. ARRINGTON, Mayor.

"The Assurance of Justice" "As I Hear, I Judge"

Last Sunday at the Court House auditorium, the Baccalaureate sermon as delivered before an overflowed audience and the graduating class of the Keytesville High School by the Rev. J. E. Wolfe, formerly the pastor of the Keytesville Christian church.

The program started promptly at 11 o'clock, with a selection, "Come Thou Almighty King," rendered by the High School Chorus. Invocation by Rev. O. L. Hunt. Quartette, "More Love, O Christ, to Thee. Another vocal number, "Praise Ye the Father," by the chorus. The address of the day by Rev. Wolfe, followed by prayer by the Rev. G. E. Barham. The chorus gave still another number and the Rev. D. M. Lockard dismissed the audience with benediction.

The Baccalaureate sermon was a masterly address, one of the best ever delivered in Keytesville. Mr. Wolfe needs no introduction to the natives of Keytesville, but his address was not heard by many of our readers and the Courier takes pleasure in reproducing it, as follows:

In mounting upon the platform Mr. Wolfe remarked as an introductory to his sermon: "I feel that if I get up here, as Strickland Gilliam put it, I can look into more faces that need looking into, than I could if I stood on the level, with you."

"I am sure as we greet these young men and women this morning that it is a sight that is payment in full for all mothers who have gone through the laborious task of getting them up in time to attend morning classes these four years. It is a great pleasure to me to be present for this service."

"With all the important things that are on our hearts today; with all the great things that lie before men and women today, as we have our hearts set on the realization of them, our schools belong to those things to which we give our greatest hope and respect and of which we are expecting the greatest and finest things. It is a real privilege, a real pleasure and opportunity when we are trying to speak to effect differences, to speak before young men and women and to their parents, who are essentially students. You don't have to create eulogy, activity and purpose. These things are already abounding in their lives. We all have to see with them, believe and hope with them, and with them simply face the future to create that for which our hearts pray."

"We have a little boy in Independence by the name of Paul Allen. Paul and his mother were at home alone one day; the other children were home for luncheon, but as it rained the other children went to the school cafeteria for luncheon. That left the mother and Paul with a lot of hot biscuits in true Missouri style, enough for the whole family and only two to eat. When they sat down to the table Paul ate biscuits and ate biscuits. Finally his mother said: 'Paul, if you don't quit eating so many biscuits you are going to burst.' Paul thought a second and said: 'Give me another biscuit and get out of the way.'"

"You know if we turn our schools loose and take the lid of tradition, prejudice and greedy self interests off of our great fine men and women who teach in them, and the youth today, with careful scientific training, with all the purposes and noble aspiration, with contemplation and hope for the future, a great new social world could come to pass."

"If some who are afraid they will burst if they do anything different would simply get out of the way it would be a wonderful relief upon the affairs of mankind. If a lot of folks who sit tight because of caution of age, the hold of established habit, the control of finance, and because of certain pride that goes with long time control, would get off the lid and turn things over to the youth that must live in an entirely different world from that in which men have lived; this youth would move forward possibly with entirely more confidence and cleanness of vision, more humanitarian spirit, with more scientific training of the mind, dealing with realities. If a lot of folks would get out of the way things would be different."

"As we go along in life we pick up a lot of expressions, the meanings of which keep growing upon us. One has said: 'In youth we earn a lot of words; as we grow older, one of two things happens, either our words shrink to fit our experience or our experiences expand to fit our words.' Alfred Noyes has written these lines: 'You chatter in church like jackdaws. Words that would wake the dead. Were there one breath of life in you, One drop of blood, he said.'"

"These powerful words are the expression of the realities of some great soul and are to be appreciated only by fellowship with that soul. As Dr. Foster once said to a class of which I was a member: 'Do not read anything on this lecture. Go to your room and mull over it.' We need a lot of mulling over the realities of life today. Not as a rehearsing of the traditions that have been handed down to us or as a reaffirming of our prejudices and a scurrying of good reasons for our own personal interests, as these are often narrowly defined. The mulling that is needed is that intimate fellowship and reverence facing up with the warm compelling

driving realities, forces and facts of our present day life and world.

"One of the abiding pleasures to a student of the life and teachings of Jesus is his fearless, honest and reverent facing of the realities of life and the world. You never feel that Jesus was trying to put anything across, he did nothing in a corner. Pitiless publicity was characteristic of his mind and heart. Out of such a mind for such a day as this came these words: 'I can of mine own self do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.' A man like this with this sort of soul and mind, facing life with his courage and with his character, is our greatest assurance of justice. And this is our subject for this occasion, The Assurance of Justice."

"We have plenty of social unrest and disquiet today and we are trying to lay it at the door of anarchists, reds, and deans, because, as we heard last night, somebody has got to bear the blame for it. Everywhere there is disquiet and unrest—everywhere a disturbance. We want to get back to normalcy. I am not speaking in terms of partisan politics at all, but we cannot go back to normalcy, because if we should we would not be the same when we get back and those things would not be the same. Normalcy in its day was the best thing the world knew. There was no one challenged—no gleam that allured men further than it. It was the best men knew. And we were then just what it had made us. But in the last few years we have heard a tremendous voice from the deep of a great humanitarian soul in rich American English of which he is master. We saw the gleam he had seen, we heard his voice in the awful night, and we are different. The world can never go back to normalcy because if we go back it would be less than we know now. We would be traitors to that which once commanded our best heart and thought."

"We must understand that the unrest of today is not fundamentally due to anarchists and bolshevik, but to these three things: "First: Growing social consciousness. "The second thing that creates social unrest today or disquiet is the feeling that we are now living in a system more or less artificial, created by greed, pride and selfishness of mankind and that the system is essentially opposed to the highest welfare of great masses of mankind. "And the third: A great reverence and respect for the power and responsibility of creative intelligence in constructing and working out the kingdom of God here and now, a system that will be more just, more generous, more human."

"There was a time when we said: 'The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of God.' 'The Lord giveth, the bugs taketh away, let us eliminate the bug.' That is the difference in our attitude. The Lord gives. He gives life. He purposeeth life, seeks to maintain life, and sent His own son that man might have life and have it more abundantly. That which robs men of the best life is against the will of God. We were all delighted to read that the typhus germ had been isolated. We shall be glad when the flu germ is isolated and our doctors have learned what to feed the gentleman in order to put him out of business."

"The injustice and unfairness and hardness of industrial, political and social life was not given by God as punishment of man for eating apples millions of years ago. The hardness of the way of life of a lot of men today is not the curse of God for sin; it is an expression of sin itself. We will begin right first, begin to isolate and eliminate the bugs that cause the trouble. We isolated one in Holland. We should take a lot of them out of Congress."

"Whenever you think of social unrest remember it is not because man is on his way down, but on his way up. The race of mankind today is going up and the unrest is just the growing pains and not an indication that he is affected with a mortal disease at all. Unrest today is an expression of a growing social consciousness; good will toward all good mankind. The expression of the feeling that the system we have today is artificial and untrue and not natural in a world over which God reigns the elements."

"The factors defeating righteousness and justice among men today are: "First: Narrow-mindedness. It used to be two men got in a fight and fought it out until one or the other was beaten into submission or died. Mankind first got along in this way without the courts of justice. Then they got a man as judge and a group of men as a jury and tried the case taking into account the whole situation. We do not allow a man's brother or fifth cousin to sit on the jury when trying a man. We feel that every drop of blood will narrow their point of view."

"A second element causing injustice and lack of mercy among men is close-mindedness; a refusal to respect, to seek to discern new facts."

"Third: Cowardice. Just afraid to venture, to go out into the untried. "Fourth: Ignorance. Lack of knowledge, lack of knowing what conditions are, our lack of sufficient facts upon which to pass judgment. "Fifth: Greed and pride. A lot of folks hold on to things because they contribute to them indifference regarding the effect upon the rest of mankind. "Sixth: A 'system-mindedness' instead of a 'human-consciousness.'"

Breckenridge Long to Speak at Salisbury and Brunswick

Hon. Breckenridge Long has been booked to speak at Salisbury, Saturday, May 27th at 8 o'clock p. m., and at Brunswick also on Saturday, May 27th at 2:30 p. m.

This will be good news to all loyal Democrats in this part of the country.

GREET THE NEW CITY MARSHAL, SAM J. COY

Yes, Tuesday was a great day for Keytesville. Excitement of all kinds abounded and a large vote was registered, in fact much larger than was expected, some 264 voters being on hand to vote and support their favorite candidates.

This was one of the city elections where nobody seemed to know just why they voted for anybody. There seemed to be underlying reports this and that candidate stood for this and that, and then denials would be spread about, and then along would come the several candidates soliciting the patronage, claiming he was "dry as thunder" and another that he was for the special hobby that the voter happened to be interested in.

The fact of the matter is just this. Sam Coy was elected by just two to one over his nearest competitor, Morris-Sunderson. John R. Hayes was left at the post.

It is now up to the citizens of Keytesville to back up the present incumbent. The Courier is satisfied he will do his duty and he has special reasons for this, something about the future.

Coy promises to help make Keytesville a better place in which to live and not a better place in which to raise hell. There is just one way to accomplish this and that way is to do something except knock his efforts in helping the Law Enforcement league clean house.

The vote was as follows: Coy, 160; Sanderson, 80; Hayes, 24.

"A lot of people today want that system restored. A lot of people are glad that system has been shaken up a bit. It will give a chance to work out an order of life made fit for the fullest life of all mankind."

"What is our 'Assurance of Justice'? We are going back to our great Master Teacher and find what in his heart was the Assurance of Just Judgment."

"First: 'As I hear I Judge.' To me that gives a picture of Jesus standing with his hand to his ear listening for the voice of the Father who had sent him; trying to hear before he spoke; trying to understand before he taught. That was the Master's life all of his days. Before he went out to become a great leader, teaching men of his day, he stayed in the wilderness forty days and fought the whole thing through, 'As I hear I Judge.' He has thought and listened, but turned our ear in the wrong direction. We turn our ears to the old traditions and there is no speech. We turn our ear to the sky and there is no voice. Jesus turned his ear to the throbbing life of mankind. He turned to the great breaking heart of a father whose boy was away from home, sat by the father and let that father tell him what a father's heart is like. When Jesus wanted to know what the will of God was, what the voice from Heaven said, he went out and looked on all the great glorious fields about. He saw the sun shine on the just and the unjust, the rain fell on the good and the evil. He went back and said, 'We have been all wrong; it is not the will of God to do good to those who are good to you and evil to those who treat you ill; it is His will that we shall pray for our enemies and do good unto those who mistreat us.' He turned his ear in the right direction. The heart, life and spirit of God are made manifest in the pulsing heart of his children here upon earth. So, 'As I hear, I Judge.'"

"If I would say to this class what has been said to me and meant so much to me, the most sacred thing we have is that sensitiveness of soul and spirit by which we detect moral and ethical differences. Jesus said, 'If you sin against God or his Son it will be forgiven you: If you sin against the Holy Spirit there will be no forgiveness, either in this world or the world to come.' Simply this: If you are disloyal to your best conscience and soul the whole thing is dark, there is no chance. The most sacred thing is this spiritual sensitiveness of the soul. "We are teaching in our schools the 'appreciation of music,' 'appreciation of literature.' A great new word has come into our vocabulary, 'Appreciation.' The ability to appreciate, the ability to enter into life. We have another expression, 'Historical-mindedness.' It means the ability to put yourself in the other man's shoes and look at life as he knew and felt it. Here you are, 'As I hear, I Judge, therefore, my Judgment is Just.' A sensitiveness of soul. God forbid though that we lose all else, that we shall ever lose this spiritual sensitiveness of our soul. "The second thing, assuring just

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Many have been waiting for Mr. Breckenridge to appear at places within striking distance, and it is an assured fact that Mr. Long will have turned away audiences to greet him.

Mr. Long is a candidate for U. S. Senator from Missouri and he is being greeted every where on his speaking tour with great enthusiastic turnouts. Chariton County will turn out en masse to hear him speak and also to get a glimpse of him face to face. Do not forget the date, Saturday, May 27th, Salisbury and Brunswick.

COMMUNITY CLUB MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 23

The next regular meeting of the Community Club will be Tuesday, May, 23, and the place will be at the Chariton hotel, time, 8 o'clock p. m.

At this time the new committees, a list of which appears else, will be read and their duties will be named. The Fourth of July plans will be gone into and the club members will discuss the celebration plans.

Also the club will take up the matter of the band concerts for the coming season.

A large attendance is urged and also those who have not yet joined for the year are specially invited to be on hand.

TRY TO REMOVE POSTMASTER BY WIRE

Like a clap of thunder out of a clear sky, a telegram was received by Postmaster J. R. Lowell here late Monday evening ordering his removal at once.

The message read: "For the good of the service your removal is ordered, effective May 10. Transfer office to Robert R. Quinn, appointed acting postmaster."

"Bartlett, First Assistant." There had been no complaint filed, so far as Postmaster Lowell knows anything about, and as no charges were preferred in the telegram, everything seemed to be considerably up in the air, peculiarly mysterious and decidedly uncertain, save and except the one fact that a revolutionary political move was ruthlessly under way to relieve the service of nother democratic official.

We understand Mr. Quinn was as much surprised as was Mr. Lowell when he received a message to proceed to take over the office this morning.

However, this human and an ambitious young man is very naturally not adverse to being stricken by this variety of lightning. Therefore, in company with his friend, Rev. E. Y. Keiter, he called at the postoffice his morning prepared to comply with Mr. Bartlett's telegraphic command.

When he got there, however, he was told by Mr. Lowell that he was not adverse to giving up the office, but insisted that as he had a commission from the president of the United States, he would insist upon being checked out legally by an authorized government officials. That inasmuch as Mr. Quinn had no commission as yet, he would probably see after due effect that in justice to all parties concerned, the transfer should be made in accordance with the law, in order that both parties might have a lean state.

Mr. Quinn saw the point immediately and very graciously agreed to that arrangement.

At noon Mr. Lowell received a second telegram from Washington which read as follows:

"Your resignation will be accepted to take effect June 1st."

MRS. BENJAMIN STRUB DIES AT HER CHILICOTHE HOME

Mrs. Benjamin Strub died at her home in Chillicothe last Sunday and the remains were shipped to Brunswick Monday afternoon. Funeral services were conducted at 9 o'clock at the Catholic church in Brunswick Tuesday morning and burial was in the Catholic cemetery, Rev. Father Martin Vonderstein having charge of the services. The Strubs were former citizens of Brunswick and Mr. Strub was in business there before moving to Chillicothe a few years ago.

Heber Hayes of Salisbury was here Monday on business.

Dr. J. B. Stokes, who is a Fellow of the American Medical Association, will leave Sunday night for St. Louis where he will attend the Medical convention for the week.